

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern Application No
PCT/GB 03/05437

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B17/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 702 611 A (FISHBEIN MEYER) 14 November 1972 (1972-11-14) column 3, line 4 -column 2, line 21 figures 1-6	1-5, 9, 13-15
X	WO 01 34040 A (SONNABEND DAVID HARRY ;GRAVES WILLIAM (AU); WALSH WILLIAM ROBERT () 17 May 2001 (2001-05-17) cited in the application page 7 figures 1-5	1-5, 9, 13-15
X	US 6 383 188 B2 (KUSLICH STEPHEN D ET AL) 7 May 2002 (2002-05-07) column 2, line 42 -column 4, line 33 figures 1-9	1-9, 11
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/04/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Schießl, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal Application No
PCT/GB 03/05437

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 992 010 A (FISCHER ARTUR) 12 February 1991 (1991-02-12) paragraph '0003! -----	10, 12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

tion on patent family members

Internat Application No
PCT/GB 03/05437

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3702611	A	14-11-1972	NONE	
WO 0134040	A	17-05-2001	AU 1401201 A EP 1227761 A1 WO 0134040 A1	06-06-2001 07-08-2002 17-05-2001
US 6383188	B2	25-10-2001	US 2001034526 A1 AU 3829201 A CA 2400356 A1 EP 1255496 A1 JP 2003522587 T WO 0160268 A1	25-10-2001 27-08-2001 23-08-2001 13-11-2002 29-07-2003 23-08-2001
US 4992010	A	12-02-1991	DE 3839617 A1 BR 8905937 A DK 580889 A EP 0370204 A1 JP 2184409 A	31-05-1990 19-06-1990 25-05-1990 30-05-1990 18-07-1990